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PORTIONS OF THE CAPE COD RAIL TRAIL CLOSED FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Brewster, Eastham - The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has announced that beginning Monday October 25, 2004, two one-mile sections of the Cape Cod Rail Trail will be closed for reconstruction. The Cape Cod Rail Trail, one of the first rail trails in the nation, covers 22 miles of former railroad bed in the towns of Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, Orleans, Eastham and Wellfleet.

During construction, the trail will be closed from Millstone Road to Mitchell Lane in Brewster and from Boat Meadow Creek to Governor Prence Road in Eastham. The reconstruction is expected to be completed in the spring of 2005 and involves recycling bituminous pavement, widening and re-paving the trail, removing roots and installing root barriers, clearing brush and selectively trimming trees, restoring eroded embankments, cleaning drainage pipes, improving intersections and erecting fencing.

In Brewster, the work requires the trail to be closed from Millstone Road to Mitchell Lane, in the vicinity of Nickerson State Park. There is no recommended on-road bicycle detour around the construction site as Route 6A is not conducive to public trail use. Flyers distributed to bike shops, chambers of commerce, town offices and area businesses this summer and by signs installed at trail parking lots recently outline the construction area. Trail users will have to turn around and return the way they came as there is no detour available in this area.

In Orleans and Eastham, an on-road bicycle detour will be implemented and signs will be installed directing bicyclists around the construction site from Boat Meadow Creek to Governor Prence Road. Between Eastham and Orleans, the detour will run from Governor Prence Road to Bridge Road to Rock Harbor Road, where it rejoins the trail via

the Route 6 bicycle path bridge. Bicyclists will reverse that route when traveling from Orleans to Eastham.

DCR is overseeing this rehabilitation project as an early action reconstruction. Presently, DCR is seeking proposals from designers to address the full rehabilitation of the trail over the next few years.

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